

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please enter the following claims:

1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A pair of forward and reverse primers for amplification of VNTR located in DNA isolated from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* species, said pair being selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4; SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 6; SEQ ID NO: 7 and SEQ ID NO: 8; SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 10; SEQ ID NO: 11 and SEQ ID NO: 12; SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 14; SEQ ID NO: 15 and SEQ ID NO: 16; and SEQ ID NO: 17 and SEQ ID NO: 18.

7. (Currently Amended) The pair of forward and reverse primers of claim 6, wherein a member of said pair further comprises an observable marker.

8. (Original) The pair of forward and reverse primers of claim 7, wherein said marker is a fluorescent label.

9. (Original) The pair of forward and reverse primers of claim 7, wherein said marker is a radioactive group.

10-17. (Cancelled).